strikes cannot be computed precisely in monetary terms because of the peculiar nature of banking operations and also due to unpredictable response to such strikes. Apart from strikes at the industry level, individual bank level unions may also call for strikes over some local issues, the impact of which may be confined to the whole bank or a particular area/branch. Since strikes etc. are called by the union/associations, they cannot be averted by the Government alone. However, conciliations/dialogues with the unions are usually attempted by the Indian banks Association/ Management/Labour authorities to avert intended strikes. In case a strike is imminent banks make arrangements for running skeleton services. Customers are also intimated about the intended strike through a notice in the newspapers to minimise the inconvenience caused to them. Appropriate actions like wage deductions etc are resorted to by the managements to deal with striking employees.

Vacancies in various High Courts

374. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA : Will the Minsiter of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of vacancies in each High Court and since how long the vacancies had remained unfilled when National Front Government assumed office,

(b) in how many cases the appointments of Judges to High Courts were not made or were rejected by the erstwhile Congress(I) Government at the Centre despite approval of names by the Chief Justice of India; and

(c) which are the High Courts in which relatives (sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, sons-in-law, sisters-in-law) of sitting Judges are practising as lawyers/ advocates?

THE MINSITER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) As on 1.12.1989, there were 83 posts of permanent and Additional Judges vacant in the various High Courts of the country out of the total sanctioned strength of 461. The dates from which these posts were vacant are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(b) It is not possible to indicate in how many cases the appointments of Judges of High Courts were not made or were rejected by the erstwhile Congress(I) Government, despite recommendation by the Chief Justice of India.

(c) The information regarding relatives etc. of sitting Judges who are practising as lawyers/advocates is not available.

Statement

Position as on 1.12.89

Sl. No.	High Court	Vacancies		Date from are lying
		Pmt.	Addl.	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	6	5	15.10.84(A) 15.10.84(A) 15.10.84(A) 15.10.84(A) 07.02.85(A) 05.12.88(P) 04.01.89(P) 20.04.89(P) 24.05.89(P) 17.07.89(P) 31.10.89(P)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6	2	26.11.82(A) 29.11.82(A) 06.05.88(P) 01.07.88(P) 26.10.88(P) 10.11.88(P) 03.10.89(P) 06.10.89(P)
3.	Bombay	5	—	14.06.89(P) 21.07.89(P) 25.07.89(P) 06.10.89(P) 20.11.89(P)
4.	Calcutta	3	—	17.02.89(P) 17.04.89(P) 03.07.89(P)
5.	Delhi	4	2	29.04.87(A) 10.02.88(A) 08.11.88(P) 02.06.89(P) 15.10.89(P) 16.10.89(P)
6	Gauhati	—	—	

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	5	3	07.06.84(A) 26.06.84(A) 02.04.85(A) 14.12.88(P) 31.01.89(P) 16.04.89(P) 04.08.89(P) 03.11.89(P)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	23.09.86(A) 06.10.89(P)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	—	01.11.89(P) 03.11.89(P)
10.	Karnataka	6	—	14.02.88(P) 05.04.88(P) 26.11.88(P) 01.01.89(P) 23.04.89(P) 17.09.89(P)
11.	Kerala	2	—	06.11.89(P) 19.11.89(P)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2	5	20.01.89(A) 21.01.89(A) 12.06.89(P) 04.08.89(A) 04.08.89(A) 24.10.89(P) 20.11.89(A)
13.	Madras	6	—	14.03.88(P) 07.11.88(P) 14.12.88(P) 05.08.89(P) 20.10.89(P) 26.10.89(P)
14.	Orissa	1	—	01.08.89(P)
15.	Patna	7	—	02.01.88(P) 02.01.88(P) 02.03.88(P) 11.08.88(P) 23.10.88(P) 01.05.89(P) 27.10.89(P)
16.	Punjab & Haryana	4	—	09.01.89(P) 21.08.89(P) 06.10.89(P) 24.10.89(P)
17.	Rajasthan	2	1	29.03.89(P) 03.06.89(P) 21.07.89(A)

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Sikkim	2	—	21.01.86(P) 05.01.89(P)
	Total	64	19	

P...Post of Permanent Judge
A... Post of Additional Judge

Deposits Collected by Commercial Banks in Kerala

375. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total deposits collected by commercial banks in Kerala during the last 5 years, yearwise till 1.1.90;

(b) what is the total amount of advance extended against it during the above period, yearwise;

(c) whether Government are considering to increase the credit-deposit ratio; and

(d) if so, by when it will be implemented and the rate at which it is contemplated to be increased?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). As per the latest data available from Reserve Bank of India, Aggregate Deposits & outstanding advances of all scheduled commercial banks in the State of Kerala as at the end of last Friday of December for last five years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

	Deposits	Advances
December 1985	3424.22	2174.75
December 1986	4138.46	2529.81
December 1987	4760.15	3039.45
December 1988	5449.09	3474.75
December 1989	6099.27	3849.94

(c) and (d). Banks have already been instructed by Reserve Bank of India to achieve 60% C-D ratio in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately and there is no proposal to revise it further.

Abolition of export duty on pepper

376. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the pepper growers for abolition of export duty on pepper; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). There is at present no export duty on pepper.

Promotion of export from the Free Trade Zone in Cochin

377. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being considered by Government for promotion of export from the Free Trade Zone in Cochin; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN). (a) Units in Cochin Export Processing Zone, like other such zones, enjoy infrastructural facilities and a whole range of concessions-incentives for promotion of exports such as duty free imports of